**Summary of the September 2023 KY K-12 Education**

**Technology Leaders’ Virtual Meeting**

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the September 19, 2023, EdTech leaders’ virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at:

<https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/district-technology-leadership-webcast/2023/09/edtech-september-2023/>.

Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/>. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so it can be easily located on the full digital recording.

This was a virtual meeting with our OET staff and all the districts joining via Microsoft Teams and/or YouTube. We will continue to make these available from our KDE media portal so that you can watch the archived discussion and share with the appropriate people in your district. Several GoSoapBox poll questions were posed throughout the meeting and district EdTech leaders were asked to respond to all the questions as it assists us in planning and getting a feel for how to best move forward. Your voice and your feedback are important and extremely helpful to us. Please remember that in addition to these webcasts being available on the KDE Media Portal, each month’s webcast is accompanied by these written summaries. We encourage you to share the link and all or any portion of these summary notes with staff throughout your district who may find the information beneficial to them in their position.

**(1:53) Robin Kinney Named Interim Commissioner –** Robin Kinney was named as the Interim Commissioner of Education at the KBE’s recent special meeting and will begin her duties in this capacity on September 30. Robin has been in this interim position once before and is a great selection to lead us until the next full-time Commissioner of Education is selected. We have a good working relationship with Robin and her office and she’s always been a KETS supporter/champion. Senate confirmation is now required for any candidate for the full time Commissioner role, so it may take longer to fill the vacancy.

**(4:09) Brian Spellman Joined OET Leadership Team –** Brian Spellman has joined our KETS Leadership Team as of this past Monday and he is serving as the Assistant Director for the Division of School Services. Brian comes from Kentucky Educational Television (KET) where he was their technical liaison to OET for some time and is very familiar with our program.

**(5:30) Upcoming Kentucky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE) Events –** Neil Arnett joined in this morning to share some upcoming KySTE events:

1. **2023 Fall Event –** November 10th at Central Bank Center. William Pierce is KySTE’s Vice President and in charge of this event. William will be sharing some announcements and further details soon, but there will be workshops on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity at this year’s event.
2. **2024 Spring Conference –** Call for Presenters is open until **November 1st**. We have historically had excellent, rockstar level presentations! Last year there were 325 sessions with the vast majority of those being given by KY K-12 educators and education technology staff. We will be at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC) in 2024 on March 13/14. We are really excited and looking forward to this event.

**(10:29) Coding at the Capitol on Sept 19th -** Marty Park joined us on-site from the Capitol this morning! Twelve school districts have sent their students to participate in today’s happenings around computer science learning that will include the opening session, student showcase and participation in the Interim Joint Committee of Education. David Couch and Marty Park will also be participating in a roundtable later today. There has been investment in computer science through the IT academy and it continues to grow. Discussions will continue on how we approach this moving forward and how to promote participation by both students and teachers in computer science with a comprehensive approach. There are over 400 computer science jobs unfilled in Kentucky and our goal is to have these positions filled by Kentucky students as they graduate and enter the workforce. David also intends to showcase Kari Welch today--she is a former STLP student (1994) who now serves as the Executive Director of COT and shared how STLP changed her career path.

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**(16:41) Update on the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for KY K-12 -** We continue to promote the ACP in Kentucky. It has been reaffirmed by Congress and they need to hear that we want this program/funding to continue. Please check out that section in your regional CIO agenda and make sure your voice is heard--this is an affordability issue and this program has been very beneficial. Right now, we are right at a 50% participation rate in Kentucky and we are still working with a few application approval issues that seem to depend upon the counselor that receives the application. We’ll keep pushing to develop more efficiencies in getting approval for inclusion with this program.

**(19:17) Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)--Top 6 Funding Priority in 2024 -** The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) made KETS a Top 6 funding priority at their August 3rd meeting.  The one-pager inserted below along with follow up detailed bullet points were used three weeks ago and will continue to be used in discussions with state legislators regarding our $148M additional budget request (ABR) for the 2024 legislative session.

We need KY K-12 district CIOs and EdTech Leaders helping us champion this message with your district leadership (i.e., your Supt, CFO) and your local state legislators. Take a look at the one-pager and let us know if you see something that you believe needs to be added or modified. We have been great stewards of taxpayer funds, yet we have taken cuts over the years. We are working to restore those cuts and then get additional monies for a variety of things. Our priority is to restore and raise the KETS baseline funding to $30M from the current $15.4M.

We met with legislators (Rep. Petrie and Rep. Reed) at the end of August and shared the KETS Budget Request Briefing one-pager. Those meetings went as well as could be expected; we had very good discussions and support. We need you to champion and play a role in getting these funds increased. If we aren’t able to get this ABR or an increase of some kind, we will have to begin looking at those items that will be weakened or broken. Our request to you is to, at a minimum, cover this with your Superintendent and CFO. It’s unpleasant to ask for money, but it is important for us to receive this increase. Sharing and/or contacting local legislators would be a big help in this effort. This has to be done NOW—they are not waiting until the January timeframe to build the 2024 biennial budget; it is happening now.

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Representative Petrie and Representative Reed asked for more details around our KETS Additional Budget Request (ABR). These are some of the main points that I verbally discussed with them that I thought would be helpful to them:

* All the products and services listed in the attached additional budget request one-pager, that will be significantly negatively impacted without an increase in funding during the upcoming legislative session, were started and used by KY K-12 districts far before the pandemic began.
* None of these listed products and services were started for the first time with federal Covid funds. We would never expect nor ask for an additional budget request for an ongoing service that was solely birthed with temporary, federal Covid funds.
* However, the pandemic expediated the use and importance of these services which have remained in high demand and valued by districts. For example, as districts quickly moved to a 1 to 1 computer ratio for all their students and teachers, this in turn increased the use of technology enabled content and technology enabled services over the Internet and the amount of KY K-12 Internet bandwidth that was needed by all districts to provide that content. Covid funds were used to address that sudden increase of Internet usage by districts that has remained in demand today. Districts were already steadily moving to a 1 to 1 computer ratio; however, the pandemic quickly expediated that happening. The beginning of the year, on-line registration service for students was already available and used by districts; however, it became more in demand during the pandemic and more districts wanted to keep using this service after it ended. KDE provided the Kentucky Virtual Library (KVL) to all districts; however, the 2008 home mortgage crisis led to that service being eliminated. The pandemic allowed that valued service to be reestablished which continues to be used frequently by districts.
* KY K-12 gets some of the best prices in the nation for our KY K-12 technology enabled products and services through the RFP and negotiation process; however, given KETS has not had a cost of living increase to our $19.5M baseline since 1992 and a 30% decrease in that baseline since 2008, we are no longer able to pay for basic/valued services even after we rebid them because quality vendors are not selling their technology enabled products and services for 1992, 2002 or 2012 prices. For example, there is a legislative mandate for KDE to provide all KY K-12 districts with an Internet content management system for student cybersafety purposes. We are currently in the last year of a 10-year contract. The price for that service in 2024 will, with certainty, be more in 2024 than it was in 2014 when we awarded it last. Therefore, we need this funding increase in KETS to help pay for these types of increases or we’ll need to stop providing them even though there is a legislative mandate to provide them to all districts.
* Educational organizations like KY K-12 public schools are now getting close to 80% of the attempted cyberattacks by cybercriminals and cyber scammers worldwide. Over the past calendar year, the amount of KY K-12 cyberattacks has increased from 4 billion to 76 billion. These additional funds will help our cybersecurity defense of all 171 public school districts, KSB, KSD, area technology centers and KDE the agency.
* Our KY K-12 product standards for our KY K-12 data systems are used by all KY K-12 districts (e.g., Munis for financial management, Infinite Campus for our school information system) that provide data to the legislature for decision making. Keeping a statewide product standard for these key and strategic data systems allows us to drive down costs 50-60% of what districts would normally pay for these same technology enabled products. This increase in funds allows us to pay for the annual cost of living increases in these types of services.
* In 2006, the legislature funded the initial cost for the KY K-12 school information system; however, it did not fund for the ongoing costs, particularly the $1.6M for the annual cost of the accumulator that provides the legislator and KDE with data for decision making purposes. Since 2006, we’ve been forced to use a funding source (i.e., federal e-rate rebates) to pay for that $1.6M that should instead be sent to districts as part of our annual KETS financial offer of assistance that the district equally matches and could be used by districts to acquire e-rate rebate products and services. Thus, we lose at least $3.2M in buying power and up to another $3M on top of that $3.2M because we are having to use that funding source to pay this annual bill. If the KETS baseline was raised by the requested amount, we’d no longer have to do that and could maximize that 3-4 bang for the buck for that $1.6M in e-rate rebates.
* KETS has been used to provide very marketable IT certifications to students. However, that service has twice been cut during a time that we have not only established computer science standards and technology standards for KY K-12 students but also during an increased demand by employers and districts for that service. Our KY K-12 student technology leadership program (STLP) has close to 60,000 students in it. This increase in funds helps us address that previous cut and to address the tremendous growth and interest of KY K-12 students in our industry IT certifications and STLP.
* Our eTranscipt service is available for all KY K-12 students upon graduation to more quickly and effectively have their college application reviewed and submitted. This service has been frequently used by a very high percentage of KY K-12 districts and universities for close to a decade. But one of the KY state agencies (KHEAA) that normally pays for a portion of the annual cost along with us says they can no longer afford it and, therefore, puts this valued service at risk of continuing unless we get these additional funds in KETS to make up that difference.
* Lastly but not least, this additional funding request allows us to address the people side of EdTech. We’ve always had digital learning coaches (DLCs) in districts, but the pandemic highlighted the importance of DLCs in districts maximizing the district’s technology investment in the classroom. The same goes for the technicians in districts that keep all the technology enabled services (security cameras, data systems, HVAC systems, voice systems, video systems, instructional systems, administrative systems) that students, teachers, leaders and staff use daily.

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It is very encouraging to see the support; please don’t wait to share the documentation shared with you today.

**(29:42) Investments in Information Technology Improvement & Modernization Projects Oversight Board –** This is a new legislative board created during the 2023 regular session and it is co-chaired by Sen. Gex Williams and Rep. Pratt. Sen. Williams requested an introductory meeting with OET that went exceptionally well and we were asked to come and present at their initial public meeting as a model of success among state agencies. We identified our successes and also shared the ABR materials shared above. You may view David’s portion of the presentation at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KWO-TREfJI&t=4657s](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D4KWO-TREfJI%26t%3D4657s&data=05%7C01%7Clisa.moore%40education.ky.gov%7Cb79cacce9c864f1612ae08dbcefc2090%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638331354585921505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hgIoVzZz3jtTC60GMU0fhxK8nEuqFY7mBwU0DyV2Tn4%3D&reserved=0); it begins around the 1:15 mark.

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**(31:03) School Facility Construction Committee (SFCC) Update -** The SFCC met on September 6 and approved the allocation supporting the 2023-2024 KETS offers of financial assistance. The KETS offer process may now officially begin. SFCC staff have been great partners with us over the years; they are a tiny staff but do an awesome job! Chelsey Couch and Kristi Russell -- we appreciate all your work and efforts to keep this program going. In all this time, some districts have banked their funds, but no district has been unable to match their funds. The first offer will be $12/ADA and that will begin in the next few weeks.  The second offer will be $9/ADA and should happen in the March timeframe.

**(33:34) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –**

| **Category** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Data** | * 2022-23 School Report Card – Visit the [KSIS School Report Card Resources webpage](https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/sis/Pages/School_Report_Card_Resources.aspx) for the complete timeline, resource materials, and communications. Current and upcoming activities include:   + Sep. 29 – End date for school-level data collection   + Sept. 29 – End date for review and approval of non-accountability data   + Approval extended to Oct. 6; Changes were made to Equity and CTE data that required this extension   + The school profile report should be signed and available by October 1   + SRC should go live for the public on November 1 or 2 * Replacement School Report Card contract – RFP in process – soliciting input on what folks like or would like to see improved to help guide this work * Visit the [KDE CRDC](https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/sis/Pages/KY-CRDC.aspx) page for updates on the upcoming 2021-22 Civil Rights Data Collection |
| **KSIS** | * Reminder: Effective Sept. 15, Infinite Campus removed all NOLOCK (and its equivalent, READ UNCOMMITTED) query hints and READ UNCOMMITTED settings from the Infinite Campus code base. To mitigate the risk of query result inconsistencies, districts should have removed any NOLOCK (and READUNCOMMITTED) query hints from their custom SQL prior to the release.  See [NOLOCK FAQ](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkb.infinitecampus.com%2Fhelp%2Fnolock-faq&data=05%7C01%7Clisa.moore%40education.ky.gov%7Cb79cacce9c864f1612ae08dbcefc2090%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638331354585921505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n9O4wKF0UjcRE7dwbvbwRcGXqVnqkkInyMLW1VNhTBc%3D&reserved=0) for more details. |
| **Training** | For details on the following training opportunities, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/sis/Pages/KSIS-Training.aspx).   * 9/25-29 – Infinite Campus User Group regional one-day training, various locations * 9/19 – New Principals Training @ KDE * 12/14-15 – Infinite Campus Interchange * 1/24 – 2023-2024 KSIS Infinite Campus (Ky. Specific) mid-year, KDE Media Portal |
| **Other** | * Make plans for your district to raise awareness for cybersecurity during the 20th annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month coming up in October. The theme this year is See Yourself in Cyber. To support this initiative, America’s cyber defense agency launched a new awareness program, [4 simple steps every American can take to stay safe online](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cisa.gov%2Fnews-events%2Fnews%2F4-things-you-can-do-keep-yourself-cyber-safe&data=05%7C01%7Clisa.moore%40education.ky.gov%7Cb79cacce9c864f1612ae08dbcefc2090%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638331354585921505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b0zaaKkhDtV1EspjINz6O89jFDGPD3KKATfnTE%2F5paM%3D&reserved=0).  For more information and to learn how to get involved as a partner with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructures Security Agency (CISA) for Cybersecurity Awareness Month activities, contact [CISA Awareness Campaigns by email](mailto:AwarenessCampaigns@cisa.dhs.gov). * As of Sept. 4, Kentucky has 422,667 households registered for benefits through the Affordable Connectivity Program. There are still $6.9 billion remaining appropriations available for disbursement, so districts are encouraged to continue efforts to promote the program. Visit the [KDE ACP webpage](https://education.ky.gov/Pages/Agency404.aspx?requestUrl=https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Pages/Affordable-Connectivity-Program) for information and resources to use in outreach efforts to families. (All students in schools participating in the Community Eligibility program for free- or reduced-price meals, those receiving assistance through SNAP, Medicaid, and more are eligible for this monthly benefit.) |
| **Personnel** | For details on School Data Services team job opportunities that will be posted soon, go to the [KDE Vacancies webpage](https://education.ky.gov/jobs/Pages/default.aspx).   * Resource Management Analyst III (K-12 Data Reporting Specialist) * Systems Engineer (Kentucky Educator Credentialing System) |

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Everyone knows now!

**(37:08) Annual Technology Activity Report (TAR) & Digital Readiness Survey Update** – This was due from all districts by September 15. The data submitted through these data collection processes plays a big role for us in telling our story and supporting our funding and programmatic needs.

**(38:19) Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) by app, text and phone in KY K-12—Update -** Moving to the cloud has done many wonderful things for us and taken much of the burden away from us. One of the down sides, however, is that when one of the cloud companies makes a change it affects everyone and this sometimes doesn’t match our timeline. This results in chaos. Microsoft has been moving away from SMS text and voice verification for years regarding authentication.  Last week, we received notification that Microsoft sent out letters regarding moving to the required use of the Authenticator application. We immediately reached out to Microsoft to see if we could delay this move to work with our security work timeline. We are very thankful for all that helped make this happen. However, this is the direction we want to go in and is necessary in our goal to go “password-less”.

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This is an amazing tool; membership is free and we encourage you to join and pick & choose the information you’d like to receive. This can help build and inform your annual cybersecurity healthcheck report to your local board.

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Microsoft does share their updates and changes in this area.

**(47:38) Field of Play Options for KHSAA Nintendo Switch Teams Update –** Last week David sent out an email to CIOs regarding field of play options for districts that have Nintendo Switch teams. The draft status has been removed from that and it is now posted on the KHSAA esports blog site. Next Thursday, September 28, there will be a one-hour meeting for eSports coaches and an invite will be going out soon for an hour slot.

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Looks like about half of you are complete!

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Little bit lower; have until October 6th